

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A bag formed of a sheet material, comprising:

a plastically deformable wire-like member attached exclusively along a lateral edge of said bag, the lateral edge having a hem seal formed by heat sealing, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal of said bag with a non-fused portion left between the wire-like member and a surrounding fused portion of the hem seal,

wherein said vertical wire-like member is disposed along the lateral edge inside said folded back hem seal joint such that the folded back hem seal joint is positioned at a top end, at a bottom end, and on at least one side of the vertical wire-like member so as to leave a space from a fused portion of said joint and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of the hem seal joint of said bag.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the joint has formed therein a tubular holder for holding said wire-like member, and wherein the wire-like member is inserted in the holder.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A gusset bag, comprising:

a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces being adapted to be opened at a top portion of said gusset bag for taking out contents of the gusset bag while self-standing;

a deformable vertical wire-like member vertically attached along each lateral edge of said gusset bag that is an intersection of adjacent main and side faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag and is disposed along an upper portion of said gusset bag such that the vertical wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the gusset bag; and

a lateral wire-like member laterally attached to each of the side faces to substantially form the shape of an inverted angular "U" together with a pair of the vertical wire-like members when the pair of main faces is not folded and the pair of side faces is folded inwardly.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A gusset bag according to claim 4,  
comprising:

a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces adapted to be opened at a top portion of said gusset bag for taking out contents of the gusset bag while self-standing,

wherein a deformable vertical wire-like member is vertically attached exclusively along each lateral edge of said gusset bag that is an intersection of adjacent main and side faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of said gusset bag such that the vertical wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the gusset bag, and

wherein at least one of the main faces is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the gusset bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like members, and the vertical wire-like members are adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claims 7-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the wire-like member is covered with a resin.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A detergent package comprising a powdered or granular detergent packed in the bag according to claim 2.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A bag formed of a sheet material, comprising:  
a plastically deformable wire-like member attached exclusively along a lateral edge of said bag, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal of said bag formed along the lateral edge such that the wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the bag; and

a rectangular projection which extends along side faces of said bag for maintaining a rectangular shape of said bag upon being open,

wherein the wire-like member is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of the hem seal joint of the bag.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A bag formed of a sheet material, comprising:  
a plastically deformable wire-like member attached exclusively along a lateral edge of said bag, the lateral edge having a hem seal formed by heat sealing, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal of said bag with a non-fused portion left between the wire-like member and a surrounding fused portion of the hem seal, wherein said wire-like member is disposed along the lateral edge inside said folded back hem seal joint such that the folded back hem seal joint is positioned at a top end, at a bottom end, and on at least one side of the wire-like member so as to leave a space from a fused portion of

said joint and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of the hem seal joint of said bag;  
and

a tubular holder for holding said wire-like member wherein a portion free of said wire-like member of said bag configured for forming an open space of said bag is provided between a top edge of said bag around an opening of said bag and an upper open end of said tubular holder.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 2, wherein at least one main face of the bag is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like member, and the vertical wire-like member is adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 18, wherein at least one main face of the bag is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like member, and the vertical wire-like member is adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claim 21 (New): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the bag includes four of the lateral edges and at least two of the lateral edges each include the plastically deformable wire-like member disposed along the lateral edge.

Claim 22 (New): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the bag includes four of the lateral edges and each of the four lateral edges include the plastically deformable wire-like member disposed along the lateral edge.